

Cereal Sandpainting

Description:

Children will learn about the purposes of Native American art as they create a sandpainting with cereal from the grocery store.

Materials:

multicolored cereal (e.g., fruit o's), cereal box cardboard, white glue, resealable plastic bags, spoons, containers for cereal, pictures of Navajo sandpaintings

Standards: 1 and 4

Concepts: Texture and color

Level: K-3



Procedure:

Show your child pictures of Navajo sandpaintings, and tell her that she will make a sandpainting using crushed cereal. First, she will separate the different colors of cereal and put them in containers. Next, she will put a handful of cereal (one color at a time) into a resealable bag, and step on it. Crush the cereal so that it looks like sand. Store the cereal sand, sorted by color, in margarine containers or an egg carton. Then have your child draw a simple picture on a piece of cardboard (a cereal box cut into pieces 6" or 7" square) and glue spoonfuls of sand to one small section at a time. When the picture is complete, shake off the excess cereal by lifting one edge of the picture.

Tip:

Shake the excess cereal off the paper into a bowl, one color at a time, and reuse it.

Simplify:

Younger children can take part in this activity too, especially the sorting of the colors. Instead of crushing the cereal, they can make a colorful collage by gluing pieces of cereal directly on the cardboard.

Extension:

Using the same crushed cereal, your child can make a Native American wristband. Help her cut a strip of paper to fit her wrist. Then follow the same procedure as for the sandpainting. When the wristband is dry, wrap it around your child's wrist, glue the edges together, and cut away the excess.

Just for Kids:

The Navajo created sandpaintings to chase away evil spirits. Using breakfast cereal and a cereal box, you can create your own sandpainting.

Resources:

www2.connectnet.com/~dmp/G3_Indian/NavSand.html

www.evan-moor.com

